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Statement of the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association

House Bill 7012

March 25, 2015

Senator Coleman, Representative Tong and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Darryl Newman. I am principal of Planter's Choice Nursery, LLC, located in Newtown, and I also serve as state president of the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association. We represent Connecticut's nurseries, garden centers, landscapers, nursery and perennial growers, and landscape designers. Our industry grosses more than \$800 million annually, and employs some 30,000 people in over 1,700 companies throughout the state.

I want to offer brief comments on House Bill 7012, *An Act Concerning a Municipality's Authority to Regulate the Construction of Fences and the Planting of Trees and Shrubs*.

CNLA is concerned that this bill could have unintended consequences. As we read the proposed language, a municipality could conceivably require a permit before a homeowner proceeds to plant a tree or shrub on their property. This could have significant ramifications and cause added paperwork and cost to a fairly benign and positive action. We believe the work our members do beautifies and improves our state. We would be concerned over the possibility of overreach by municipalities in this area. Further, we are not aware of any significant problem that has existed with current law or a municipality's ability to zone or regulate building permit applications.

We wonder if there really is a need for this legislation and, as such, would ask you to take no action on the proposal at this time.

Thank you for considering the views of Connecticut's nursery and landscape professionals on House Bill 7012.